

GANG MEMBERSHIP

Number and Percent of Known Gang Members in Orange County by Race and Ethnicity Under 18 Years of Age

Race/Ethnicity of Known Gang Members	1999		2000	
	Actual Known Numbers	% of Total Membership	Actual Known Numbers	% of Total Membership
Asian	213	14%	135	12%
African American	44	3%	25	2%
Hispanic	1,192	76%	926	80%
Pacific Islander	7	0.4%	4	0.3%
Non-Hispanic White	99	6%	52	4.5%
Other	21	1%	15	1.3%
Total	1,576	100%	1,157	100%

Summary

The efforts to eliminate gang-involved crime in Orange County are conducted on multiple fronts and involve many agencies, both public and private. However, gang-involved crimes continue to be among the most difficult and complex crimes to combat because witnesses are often reluctant to testify. Nevertheless, multi-faceted efforts to combat gang-related crime by the County's law enforcement agencies continue to be substantial. Their anti-gang strategy includes various programs that investigate, track, report, evaluate and combat gang-related violence.

Implications

Juvenile gang members commit serious and violent offenses at a rate several times higher than non-gang adolescents. In addition, they are often actively involved in drug use, drug trafficking and violence. Although data on overall youth gang violence are limited, violence may be increasing along with the number of gangs and gang members, and the increased availability of firearms. As a result, the need for specialized units to address gang problems will continue. In addition, after school programs, employment and education systems need to be enhanced to help prevent adolescents from joining gangs. Meeting the challenge of effectively dealing with gang-related violence will require continuing collaboration by county and community agencies.

NOTES



SEE
SUPPLEMENTAL
TABLES FOR
ADDITIONAL
DATA

NATIONWIDE:
More than 26,000 gangs and 840,500 gang members were estimated to be active in 1999. That same year, 50% of gang members were under 18 years of age, 47% were Hispanic, 31% were African American, 13% were Caucasian, and 7% were Asian (2% reported "Other").¹

DATA SOURCE:
Orange County District Attorney's Office/Gang Unit

NOTES:
¹U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention *Fact Sheet #20*, November 2000

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: SAFE HOMES & COMMUNITIES

Indicator

Gang Membership

Number of Known Gang Membership in Orange County by Age

Known Gang Members by Age	December 1995	December 1996	December 1997	December 1998	December 1999	December 2000	% Change 1995/2000
8-14 years old	837	299	187	200	115	88	-89%
15-17 years old	3,489	2,735	3,174	1,797	1,461	1,065	-69%
18-21 years old	7,698	7,352	9,521	6,588	6,243	5,312	-31%
22+ years of age	9,490	13,649	5,787	11,180	11,524	11,293	19%
Total Members	21,514	24,035	18,669	19,765*	19,343*	17,758*	-17%

*Note: This does not include cases with unknown.

For 1998 = 200 included unknown.

For 1999 = 178 included unknown.

For 2000 = 237 included unknown.

Source: Orange County District Attorney's Office.

Number of Members in Orange County by Gang Type and Gender as of December 2000

Gang Types	1996			2000		
	Male Members	Female Members	Total	Male Members	Female Members	Total
Asian	2,841	404	3,245	2,199	207	2,406
Blood	319	24	343	97	4	101
Crew	107	4	111	285	4	289
Crips	646	54	700	277	35	312
Folk	33	4	37	25	1	26
Motorcycle	6	0	6	33	2	35
Other	232	15	247	207	3	210
Pacific Islander	NA	NA	NA	48	3	51
Posse	63	1	64	0	0	0
Prison	NA	NA	NA	19	1	20
Punk	12	0	12	0	0	0
Racist	58	5	63	161	15	176
Samoan	170	24	194	0	0	0
Skinhead	467	62	529	458	45	503
Stoner	20	0	20	23	2	25
Tagbanger	NA	NA	NA	321	8	329
Tagger	501	16	517	270	3	273
Turf	15,998	1,893	17,891	739	36	775
Turf (Hispanic)	NA	NA	NA	11,300	918	12,218
White	NA	NA	NA	234	12	246
Unknown	NA	NA	56	NA	NA	NA
Total	21,473	2,506	24,035	16,696	1,299	17,995

Note: Gang types in bold are new categories or split categories.

Source: Orange County District Attorney's Office.